


MEMORANDUM

TO: **R.J. Blair, Neighborhood Coordinator**

FROM: **Tracy Dean, Senior Management Analyst** 

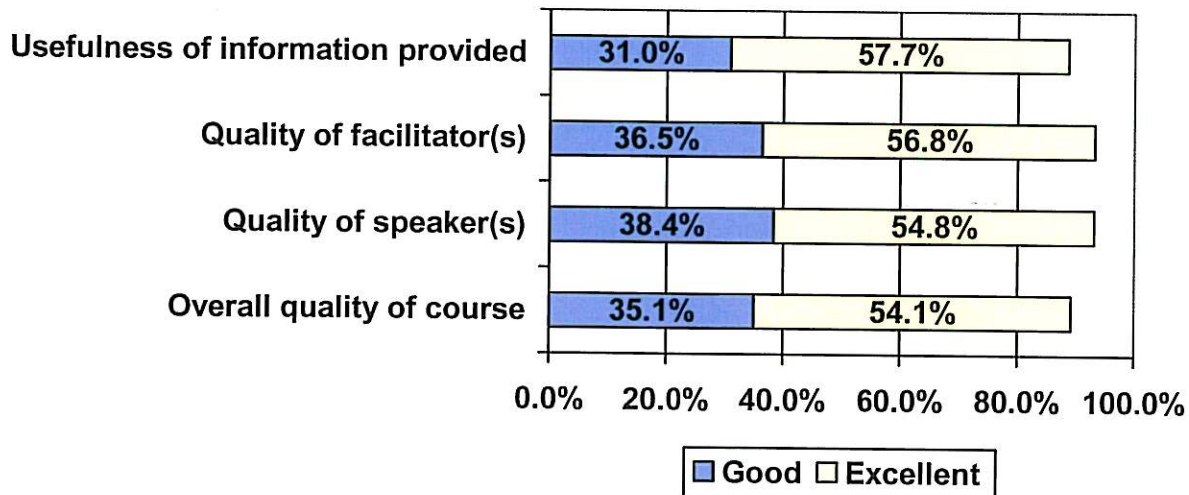
SUBJECT: **Arlington Neighborhood Academy 2007 – Youth Tract Survey Results**

DATE: **April 4, 2007**

Class evaluations were distributed at the end of each of the four classes during the Youth Track of the 2007 Arlington Neighborhood Academy. There were a total of 76 responses received: 21 for The Big Picture, 13 for Mapping It Out, 22 for National and Global Youth Service Day Part 1, and 20 for National and Global Youth Service Day Part 2

SATISFACTION RATINGS

Satisfaction ratings are based on a four-point scale. The graph below shows good and excellent ratings for each of the questions.



OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

The comments most often heard when participants were asked what they liked best about the course were regarding the group activities. There were 16 different positive comments about the rap presentations, 15 about the National Youth Service Day and service projects, and 11 compliments about the Council activity. Seven participants said they enjoyed “everything”.

Other things participants liked best included:

- The ice breaker
- Meeting new people/interaction/getting to know each other
- Speakers

The main concern, or thing that participants liked least, was that the course was too long; however, this was only mentioned by four participants. Other things that were mentioned by more than one participant as being their least favorite were the Council activity, not getting chosen for anything, non-participation by group members, filling out papers, and the temperature in the room.

When asked what they would like to see offered in future courses, there were 32 suggestions. About half of the ideas (15) dealt with how teens can help the community, their neighborhood, and Arlington and community service projects. Four participants said they wanted to learn about businesses/business people, while eight other class members said that they wanted more activities like those they did during this academy (fun, hands-on, games, group projects).

There were a variety of responses when asked for the one thing that participants learned that they could share with their neighbors or neighborhood organizations. A common theme was community – how to help the community, importance of community and community service, and the definition of community. There were also ten responses regarding City Council, such as knowing Council members, how Council meetings run and how city ordinances are passed. Additionally, National Youth Service Day was mentioned by five participants. Other responses included:

- To be a leader
- No teen curfew
- We can voice our opinions and make a difference as citizens of Arlington
- How to make communication better
- How to be interactive
- Caring is sharing

Overall, participants were extremely positive about the program, and enjoyed interacting with other people during the group activities.